



Interstate-55 shut down after motorist strikes pole



Just south of Glenarm, a pickup truck veered off Interstate-55 and collided with an Ameren transmission pole, causing the 138,000-volt lines to sag dangerously close to the interstate. The low hanging lines were immediately struck by a rental truck that happen to drive by at the most unfortunate time. The high-voltage lines tore through the metal truck until it finally came to a screeching halt. The large cables were not severed, but the abrupt stop caused several more poles

to break, along with additional damage to the support structure. The interstate was shut down for several hours while the lines were being cleared away. The damage was extensive and restoration took several days.

Most of the damage was done to Ameren's transmission, but an RECC distribution line was attached to the poles that carried power across the interstate. This is often called an underbuild and is quite common among utilities.

Typically, the underbuild lines would be reattached after the poles were replaced and power would be restored in a timely manner. In this case, the lengthy repairs would leave 25 members without power for an extended period. The line crews were able to create an alternative route to back-feed these members and power was restored to everyone within a few hours, instead of a few days. The system was returned to normal once the Ameren repairs were complete.

RECC wind turbine back on-line



Journeyman Lineman Sean Koen remotely maneuvers the yaw motor inside the turbine.

Three yaw motors and their accompanying gearboxes were replaced in late August. The yaw motors are used to rotate the nacelle and blades in the direction of the wind. Only one motor was bad, but the decision was made to replace all three while the turbine was shut down. The replacement parts and repairs were covered under the EWT maintenance agreement with no additional costs to the cooperative.

The motors weigh about 500 pounds and are quite awkward to move. RECC linemen used a bucket truck to maneuver the motors inside the tower structure. Once inside, the turbine's 300-foot hoist slowly lifted them to the top of the nacelle to be installed. Afterwards, the motors and gearboxes were tested and the wind turbine was ready to generate power once again.



**Schedule an
EV test-drive
at recc.coop**



Director Garry Niemeyer and his wife Cheryl getting ready to drive in the Waverly parade.



Director Thom Hart and wife Mary were the first to drive the EV, followed by Board Chairman Mel Repscher.

Capital Credit refunds paid as bill credit!

Your board approved the rotation/retirement of **\$468,839** in capital credit equity. All current and former member-owners, who received electric service and contributed to margins in **1988 or 1989** will be repaid. Active members will receive their Capital Credit Refund on the September bill, which will be mailed out in early October.

Capital credit equity comes from the cooperative's margins, which amounts to the difference between

the money we collect during the year minus our operating expenses. Until it's repaid to members, the equity is used to finance new construction and system improvements. RECC has returned more than \$4 million in member equity since 1978.

A key difference between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities are Capital Credits. An investor-owned utility returns a portion of their profits to shareholders. But, RECC allocates 100 percent

of our margins to the members, who purchase electricity during the year.

Estates of deceased members can continue receiving capital credit retirements or choose a discounted Capital Credit Equity payout to close out a membership account. Please let us know if you have any questions about your capital credit account. Thank you for your past purchases from RECC!

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Cooperative Communicators meeting held after year delay



The meeting was held at Edgewood Golf Club in Auburn.



The electric vehicle was on display for the committee to review.



Director Cassie Eigenmann tours the course after the CCC summer meeting.